Prelude to Ivan's War #10 Mar 13 2023

Keith into Darkness Part 2

Last time on Prelude to Ivan's War, Keith was discovered by his father, Dr. Gruzzard of the Dark Universe. Dark Gruzzard tells Keith that his father from the universe Keith is from has found a way into the Dark Universe and now he is building a large invasion force to take over other universes and the Ultraverse. The Dr. Gruzzard of Keith's universe (Prime Gruzzard) is on leave for a conference and Dark Gruzzard and Keith infiltrate Prime Gruzzard's cloud base. Dark Gruzzard shuts off all the security systems while Keith destroys all the engine turbines that make the cloud base stay in the sky. Prime Gruzzard's top of the top droid gets suspicious and he contacts the Prime Gruzzard. Prime Gruzzard returns to the cloud base and he apprehends Dark Gruzzard and Keith. Dark Gruzzard and Keith fight against Prime Gruzzard. The cloud base falls to the ocean and is left as nothing but a cluster of debris and Dark Gruzzard falls into the debris. Prime Gruzzard takes Keith to the high court of the Asterix Empire where Keith is sentenced to execution.

And Now for the Conclusion…

Keith has his arms and legs attached to a vertical metal panel with a slight slope. A large chain gun with four barrels is set up and is aimed at Keith. A team of people of the Asterix Empire sit behind a window where they work the controls for the chain gun. A high-ranking officer that looks exactly the same as Grand Master Augi of the Ultraverse Monks enters the control room. He looks at Keith in place for the execution and he sees the executioners at the controls. Dark Augi said, "You are all relieved of your duties. I have direct orders from our superior that I am to oversee this execution personally and there cannot be anyone else present." The executioners leave the control room leaving Dark Augi in the room alone. Dark Augi deactivates the chain gun and he enters the execution room. Dark Augi goes up to Keith and he said, "You must be Keith. I heard a lot about you. I am High Commandant Augi of the Asterix Empire. I want you to come with me."

Keith and Dark Augi walk down a dark night street where they go near a harbor. Dark Augi said, “I understand that you were at Dr. Gruzzard’s cloud base. I bet there is a lot of technology and useful weapons in that heap of remains. We will go there.” Dark Augi leads Keith to a small black boat that speeds off into the ocean. Dark Augi and Keith come across the remains of Dr. Gruzzard’s cloud base. Dark Augi controls the boat through the maze of debris. Dark Augi spots some weapons and some components and he takes them. Dark Augi said, “I understand that there is something here for you. Reach out and find it.” Keith raises his right hand and his cyan sword of redemption that is stuck at the bottom of the ocean is flung from the ground and it zips into Keith’s hand. Dark Augi said, “That’s an impressive sword you have there.” Keith said, “Why are you doing this? I thought I was supposed to be executed.” Dark Augi said, “I told you before. You are too good to waste.” Keith said, “I understand that this universe is supposed to be the opposite of my universe. I know your other counterpart. He is the Grand Master of the Ultraverse Monks. He is one of the best monks in the order. That would make you one of the worst villains of the Monk order.” Dark Augi said, “I know nothing about where you are from. I am only doing this because you deserve better. It is either this or execution. Which of those is better? Come, I will show you my people.”

News bulletins appear on screens on streets in the Asterix Empire showing Keith. A caption reads, “Prisoner escaped. Keith is on the run. If you see Keith, report him at once. There will be a reward of $20000 to the person that reports Keith.”

Roswell is in the monk library where outside daylight pours into the windows giving the Ultraverse Monk Library an orange golden glow. Roswell is on the computer and he looks at a news feed. Roswell sees the news bulletin saying that Keith is on the loose in the Dark Universe. Roswell flails his wings around and he said, “Keith is alive!” Roswell barges into Grand Master Augi’s office with a printed copy of the news bulletin. Roswell said, “Grand Master Augi, you need to see this. Keith is on the loose in the Asterix Empire. We need to save him. He is one of our best monks and he is a good friend.” Grand Master Augi said, “The stakes are too high. I have heard reports from people that visited that universe. They say the streets are heavily guarded and the guards have itchy trigger fingers. It would take an army of our best monks and this is likely to end up as a suicide mission. It is not worth risking our best monks to save one of our best monks.” Roswell said, “You don’t understand. Keith has done a lot for us. He upgraded out technology systems and he defeated Grand Master Feistar which is ultimately why you have the position you have now.” Grand Master Augi said, “I rest my case. We are not risking any of our monks.” Roswell leaves Master Augi’s office and he said, “If Augi is not going to do anything, I will have to devise my own plan.” Roswell goes to the library and he searches through computer records and he finds an add for a private army that people could hire.

Dark Augi takes Keith on a boat ride into a sewage pipe that sticks out far into the ocean. Dark Augi drives the boat through tunnels and they end up on a platform in the sewer where technology is set up and a bunch of various people are gathered around. Dark Augi brings Keith to the platform and the people crowd around Keith. One guy said, “You found him. Our cause seems much more winnable now.”

Dark Augi stands in front of a schematic of a building. Dark Augi said, “This is the main data center records building located in the center of the Asterix City. Important data records are located in this building. If we can bring this data to the Ultraverse, we would know all the universes they have invaded or are planning on invading.” Keith said, “How are we going to steal this data? We could sneak inside but knowing how advanced and powerful their security systems and weapons are, we would get killed in a matter of seconds.” Dark Augi said, “Good point, Keith. Their defenses are some of the best in the Ultraverse but we have something against them.” Augi points out all the technology lying around the platform. Augi continues, “For months I have gathered highly advanced technology from defectors and people that support our cause. I just nabbed some weapons from Dr. Gruzzard’s cloud base crash site. With this technology, we can storm that place and we will have the perfect technology to counter their attacks. Our very own Jake here has assembled some battle mechs for us that can rip apart their data center easy.” Dark Augi points out Jake (the Dark Universe counterpart of the character from Odyssey of Oddities) in the crowd among Dark Augi’s people. Jake is an academically gifted intern that has worked in the data center. He provided us with all these schematics and plans. We only have two powerful robot mechs built by Jake. I think Jake and Keith should use them since they are our two best players. The rest of you can find other weapons and technology in our collection and we will get ready to battle.”

It is nighttime and Keith and Jake are suited up in the robot battle suits and they hide in an alleyway across the street from the data center. Dark Augi signals for Keith and Jake to begin the attack. Keith and Jake destroy the front of the data center and security battle robots are summoned. Keith and Jake use the weapons on the mechs and they destroy the security battle robots as if they are nothing. Keith and Jake break down the door to an elevator shaft and they climb up the elevator shaft. The elevator is in the way and Keith and Jake blast down the elevator and it explodes into particles.

Keith and Jake climb into the main data room where a computer is set up with wires with green energy flowing through them. Jake said, “This is where the main data is kept. It is encrypted but thankfully, I know how to decrypt it.” Jake goes to a computer terminal and he attempts to decrypt the data. Doors open and several ninja

battle robots with red dual bladed energy swords jump and spin in the room. Keith said, “I will protect you.” Keith punches down one of the ninjas. Keith tries to blast at one and he misses and he blasts through the wall. Jake said, “This data is very important. It is best you don’t try to blast anything.” Keith engages in melee combat with the ninjas and they kick Keith in the air. Keith’s mech goes flying backward and lands face up on the floor. The ninjas pile on Keith. Keith gets up and he grabs onto two of the ninjas and he smashes them into the walls of the place. The remains of the ninjas crumble in Keith’s hand. Keith makes the fists of his mech spin around and he punches down the ninjas. One of the ninjas uses the dual bladed sword to cut both of Keith’s mech’s arms off. The ninja kicks Keith in the face several times. Keith’s mech is cracked and begins to smoke. The remaining ninjas get cut in half with one of their own dual bladed swords. Jake stands over Keith with the dual bladed sword. Jake has a green and black cylinder in his hand. Jake said, “I decrypted the data. I got what we came for.” Keith said, “Good. I can’t get up since both of my arms were broken off.” Jake said, “You are down and that is how you will stay.” Jake jabs the dual bladed sword into Keith’s mech. Keith’s mech gets destroyed and Keith is thrown out of it.

Keith is out of his mech and Jake said, “You are far too trusting. Augi’s plan is stupid as hell. There is no way you can survive an attack on a top Asterix Empire institute. Jake swings the red blade around. Keith draws out his cyan sword of redemption. Keith locks blades with Jake. Keith jumps over Jake’s right arms and Keith slashes it and his slash does nothing. Keith runs past Jake and runs down a hallway. Keith takes out a communicator and Keith said, “Augi, it is Keith. Jake has betrayed us. Jake lured us into a trap.” Augi said, “I think we already know that.” Augi is outside with his team of renegade commandos and they are surrounded by Asterix Empire soldiers and battle robots. Keith is running down a hall and a wall of Asterix soldiers grab onto Keith’s arms and they throw Keith outside where he is surrounded by Asterix forces along with the rest of Augi’s commandos.

A large sphere flies down to the commandos and the top of the sphere opens to reveal Dr. Gruzzard is controlling the flying sphere. Dr. Gruzzard said, “Why isn’t it my favorite son, Keith. You still think you have a chance at your great defiance of your future?” Keith said, “The Asterix Empire is not my future.” Dr. Gruzzard said, “So be it then. I was made the regional commander of this area and I shall oversee all public executions held in this region. I am up here watching. You may all fire when ready.” The soldiers and robot mechs load their weapons and they aim them at Keith, Dark Augi, and the rest of the commandos. Two of the battle robot mechs get blasted down by plasma blasts. Everyone turns their attention to Roswell sitting at the top of a tank in a squadron of tanks with soldiers running next to them. Roswell points to the Asterix Empire forces and he said, “Attack!” The troops and tanks go to battle with the Asterix forces. Roswell has the tank drive next to Keith. Keith said, “Roswell. I knew you would save me.” Roswell said, “Get aboard my tank. It is prepped and…” Jake runs

into the battle and he picks up Roswell's tank. Roswell jumps and flies out of the tank. Jake crushes the tank into a ball. Jake said, "You didn't think you would never see me again, did you?" Roswell rapidly flails over Jake. Jake grabs onto Roswell's foot. Roswell has his sword drawn out and he strikes it at Jake's head which is protected by a heavy shield. Keith jumps to Jake's head and Jake grabs Keith with his other fist. Jake said, "Now I can crush both of you." Dark Augi spots this and he jumps at Jake's head. Dark Augi is stuck to Jake's shield and Jake uses the arm holding Roswell to pull off Augi. Roswell gets within reach of Jake's shield and Roswell digs his claws into Jake's shield. Jake tries to pull Roswell off his shield but Roswell is stuck there. Jake said, "What gives?" Roswell said, "These claws are much stronger than any weapon you have." Roswell digs his claws deeper into the shield and the shield shatters. Roswell quickly digs his claws into the front of Jake's mech and he digs them in deep. Jake's mech begins to malfunction. Jake said, "I knew I shouldn't have put the main control chip in the chest." Jake's mech falls apart.

Keith and Roswell are free and they are in the middle of the battle. Keith looks up and he sees Dr. Gruzzard flying over the battle in his sphere. Keith is next to Roswell and he points out Dr. Gruzzard to Roswell. Keith said, "Dr. Gruzzard is in that sphere up there. Do you think you can fly us to him?" Roswell said, "It would be my honor." Roswell grabs onto Keith's shoulders with his claws and he flies Keith and himself up to Dr. Gruzzard's flying sphere. Roswell hovers over the sphere and Dr. Gruzzard spots them on a rear camera screen. Dr. Gruzzard fires homing missiles at them and Roswell twirls around and he causes the missiles to crash into each other. Roswell flies close to Dr. Gruzzard and he digs his claws into his sphere. Dr. Gruzzard turns his sphere upside down and he flies right above buildings. Keith and Roswell are knocked off and they fall on the roof of a building. Dr. Gruzzard engages at Roswell and Keith and he dashes at them. Roswell grabs onto Keith's shoulders and he dashes at Dr. Gruzzard. Roswell throws Keith with his sword out at Dr. Gruzzard. Keith slashes his sword right at the middle of the sphere and it is split in two. Roswell collects Keith and brings him to the building rooftop to safety. Dr. Gruzzard falls and he uses rocket boosters in his feet to hover to safety. Keith and Roswell go face to face with Dr. Gruzzard.

Dr. Gruzzard said, "You were to be executed. I guess I have been procrastinating at that too much. All your friends are doomed." Dr. Gruzzard takes out a ray gun and he fires it at Keith and Roswell. Keith and Roswell dodge the blast. Dr. Gruzzard fires it again and Roswell takes out his sword and he tries to block the blast but the blast ends up melting the blade of Roswell's sword. Dr. Gruzzard said, "Your friends are doomed. I can take out every army in the Ultraverse with this ray gun in my hand. The Gruzzard family has always had the best ingenuity towards weapons in the Ultraverse. You see, the Gruzzard family was always destined to rule over the Ultraverse. I can rule over it all with this weapon that I only ever made one of." Dr.

Gruzzard blasts the ray gun at Keith and Keith blocks it with his cyan sword of redemption. The beam is deflected into the sky. Dr. Gruzzard keeps charging the beam and it keeps being deflected by Keith's sword. Keith changes the angling of his sword and he makes the beam go downwards where it cuts off the part of the roof Dr. Gruzzard is standing on and he plummets towards the street below.

Dr. Gruzzard gets up and Keith has his sword aimed at him and all the soldiers Roswell brought and commandos have their weapons aimed at Dr. Gruzzard. Keith said, "Your sentence was not finished and I think now is a good time to finish it."

Dr. Gruzzard is locked up in a high security prison in the Ultraverse. Keith and Roswell stand outside the prison and Roswell said, "This is really intriguing. The Augi of the Dark Universe is a reckless warlord that plans out sloppy attack plans that sacrifices valuable people over data while at the same time, out Augi wouldn't send a single troop or assault task force to rescue one of our best monks." Keith said, "That is intriguing. People in the Dark Universe are supposed to be inversions of their characters in other universes. Our Augi is good and the Augi from the Dark Universe was also good." Roswell said, "Well, I guess equivalents don't always add up." Dark Augi walks up to Keith and Roswell. Dark Augi said, "Keith and Roswell, it is an honor to see the monks that saved my plan and my commandos. The whole area that was under Dr. Gruzzard's rule was raided by my men. We searched through the debris of the data center and we found this." Dark Augi hold up the cylinder that has the data in it. Augi said, "It looks like we claimed out prize after all. I also found myself a bonus." Dark Augi shows Keith and Roswell Dr. Gruzzard's ray gun. Dark Augi said, "I am going to find a way to make more weapons like this and have them only sent to my troops." Keith said, "You should join the Ultraverse Monks. We could use someone with your technological skills." Dark Augi said, "Thank you for the offer but I will have to decline. There are several other universes out there that need to be avenged. Thanks to that army Roswell recommended to me and the information in this data, the days that the Asterix Empire rules over those other universes are numbered. The Ultraverse will be saved in time and the Asterix Empire will fail."